

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is in response to the non-final Office Action of December 21, 2005. Applicants amend independent claims 1, 8, and 14. Claims 3 and 17 have been cancelled. The amended claims introduce no new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims 1, 4-6, 14, 16, 18 and 19 in view of the above amendments and the following remarks submitted in support thereof.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 14, 16, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dimitroff et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 6,209,023). In light of the amendment and arguments contained herein, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Although the Applicants believe that the original pending claims are sufficiently defined over the prior art of record, the Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 to take allowable subject matter pursuant to the recommendations of the Examiner in the non-final Office Action of December 21, 2005. Specifically, the Examiner indicated in that non-final Office Action that dependent claims 3 and 17 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims from which they originally depend. In view of that suggestion, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14 to incorporate features described in canceled claim 3 and 17, respectively.

As independent claims 1 and 14 have now been amended to place them in condition for allowance, dependent claims 4-6, 16, 18 and 19 can no longer be deemed anticipated because they recite further limitations off of allowable subject

matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1, 4-6, 14, 16, 18 and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

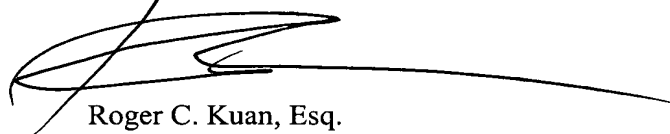
In the non-final Office Action of December 21, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 8 and 10-13. The Applicants amend independent claim 8 to correct a recently discovered punctuation error. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully take the allowable subject matter of claims 8 and 10-13.

SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact Roger C. Kuan at (408) 744-6927.

If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ADAPP171). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Kuan', is written over the printed name of Roger C. Kuan.

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